

A woman with blonde hair is leaning over a desk, smiling and looking at a young boy and a young girl. They are both wearing white polo shirts and are focused on a task involving colorful wires (red, yellow, blue) connected to a small electronic device. The background shows a classroom setting with a computer monitor, blue chairs, and various educational posters on the wall.

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Iowa STEM BEST® - Lessons Learned

Kristine Bullock — Southeast Regional Manager

STEM BEST[®] Background

- First RFP released in August 2014 with subsequent annual funding opening every summer
- Goal - Unite expertise of public and private sector partners to strengthen the continuum from school to careers
- Based on three attributes:
 - Education driven by industry and community need
 - Rigorous, relevant and dynamic STEM curriculum
 - Authentic partnerships

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Eligibility

- The Iowa STEM BEST® proposals must be targeted to students in grades K-12 who attend any public or private school in Iowa
- Business, economic development groups, higher education, etc can apply in partnership with these schools and districts.
- Preference given to districts who partner or “cluster” to share resources

Accomplishments

- STEM BEST® Program Data
 - 37 programs awarded since FY15
 - Over 700 students participating annually
 - Hundreds of local employers engaged in work based learning for students
 - Higher education, chambers of commerce, small and large businesses, government agencies, non-profits, community foundations
 - Over \$4,880,000 in cost-share to date

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Awarded Programs

FY15

- Bettendorf/Pleasant Valley, Iowa BIG, Kirkwood Community College, Northeast, Rock Valley

FY16

- Iowa BIG North, Des Moines Hoover, Davenport West

FY17

- Assumption HS, Boone, Fort Madison, IKM-Manning, Muscatine, North Cedar Elementary, Spencer, Story County Consortium, Waukee, West Delaware

FY18

- Alburnett, Albia, Ankeny, Atlantic, Cedar Falls, Chariton, Iowa BIG North, Davenport West, IKM-Manning MS, Iowa City, Marshalltown, Muscatine, Newton, North Iowa, Oelwein, Southwest Valley, Spirit Lake, West Liberty MS

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Funding

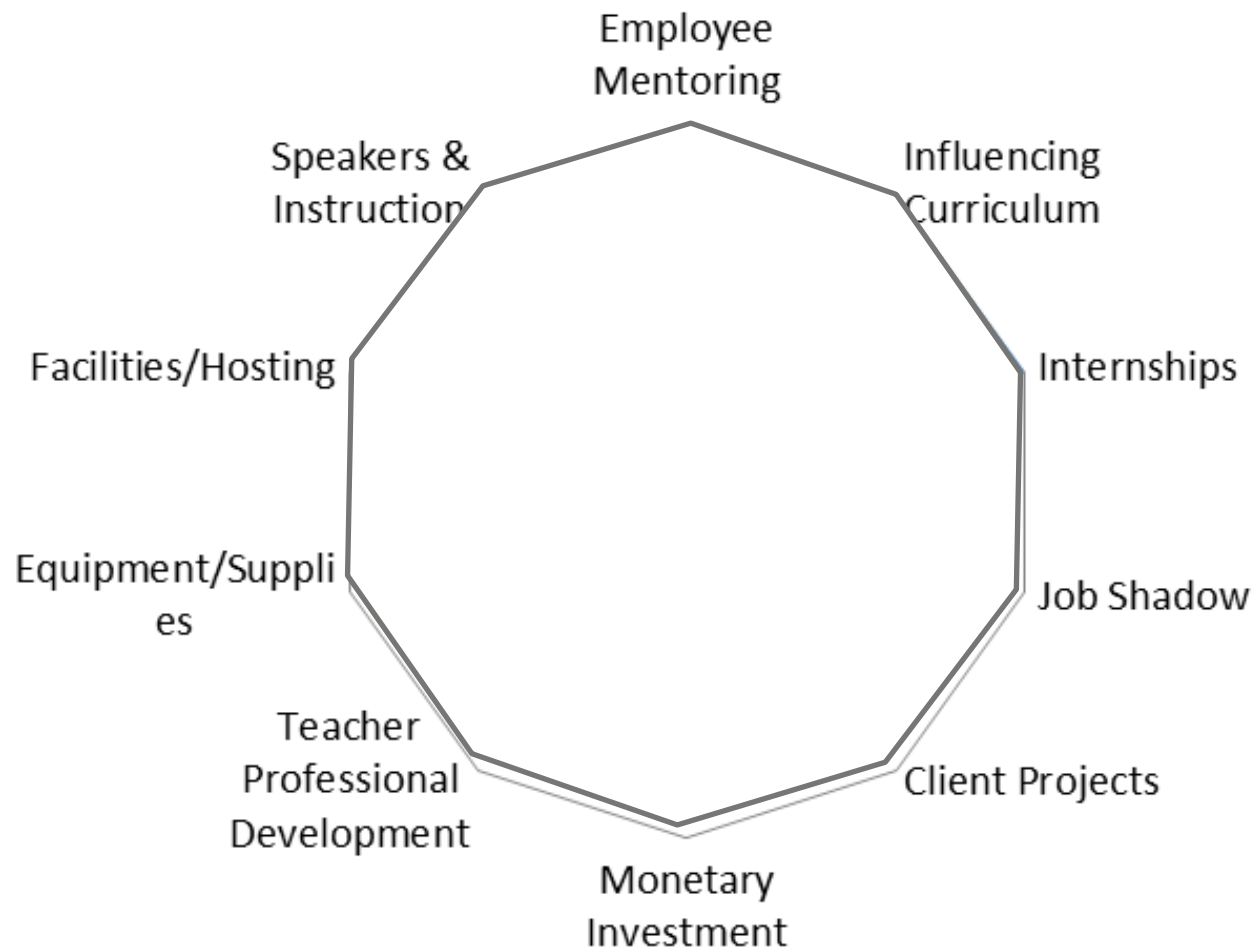
Grants ~ up to \$25,000

- Curriculum Development
- District Team Site Visits
- Participation in conferences/programs geared toward partnership development
- Needs Assessment
- Direct and Indirect Costs
- Professional Development for STEM teachers and partners
- Coordinator/Business Development Support
- Other unforeseen costs may be allowed subject to approval
- **Cost sharing is required – detail amount, sources and uses**

Lessons Learned

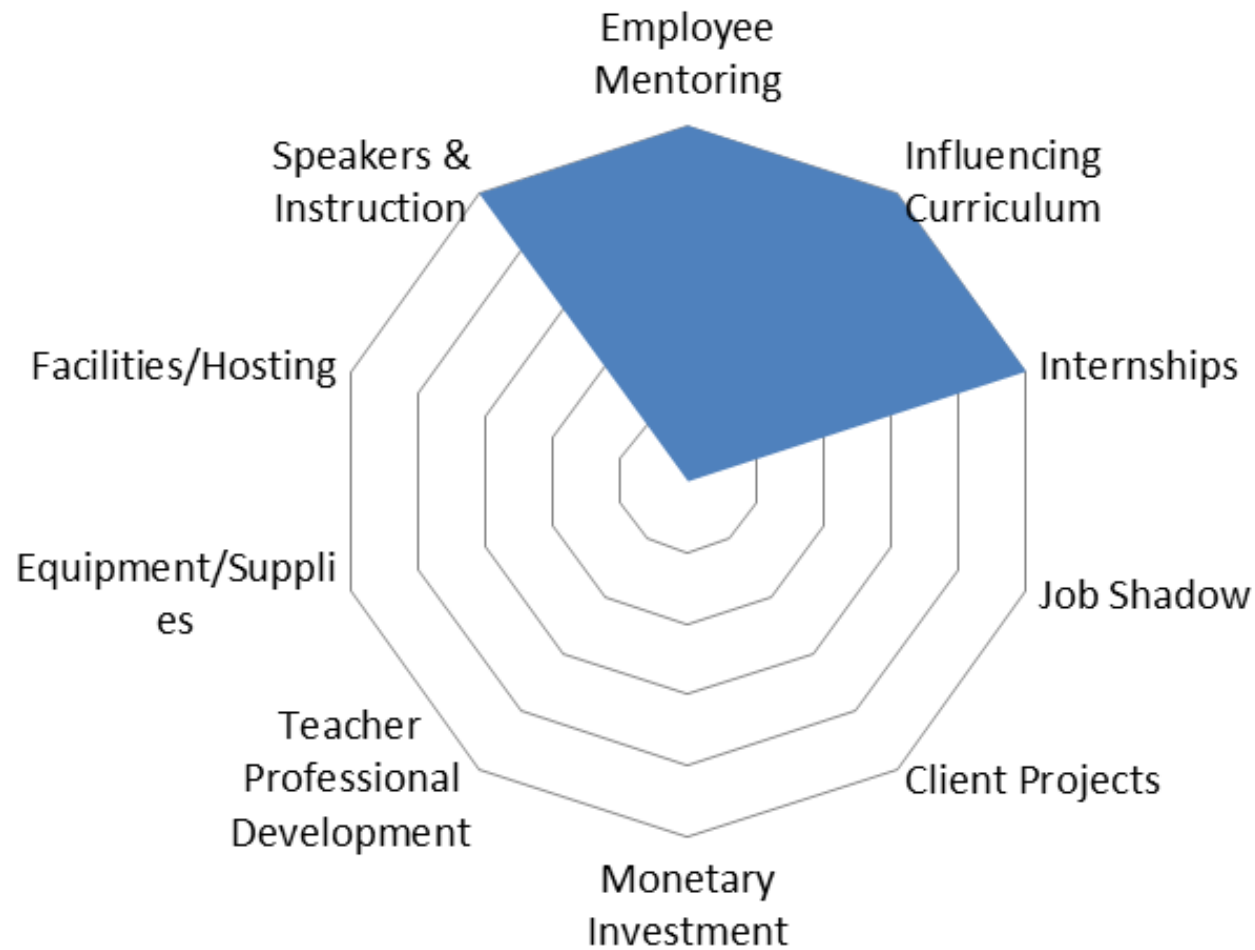
- Sustainable partnerships require diverse levels of engagement

Exemplar – STEM Innovator



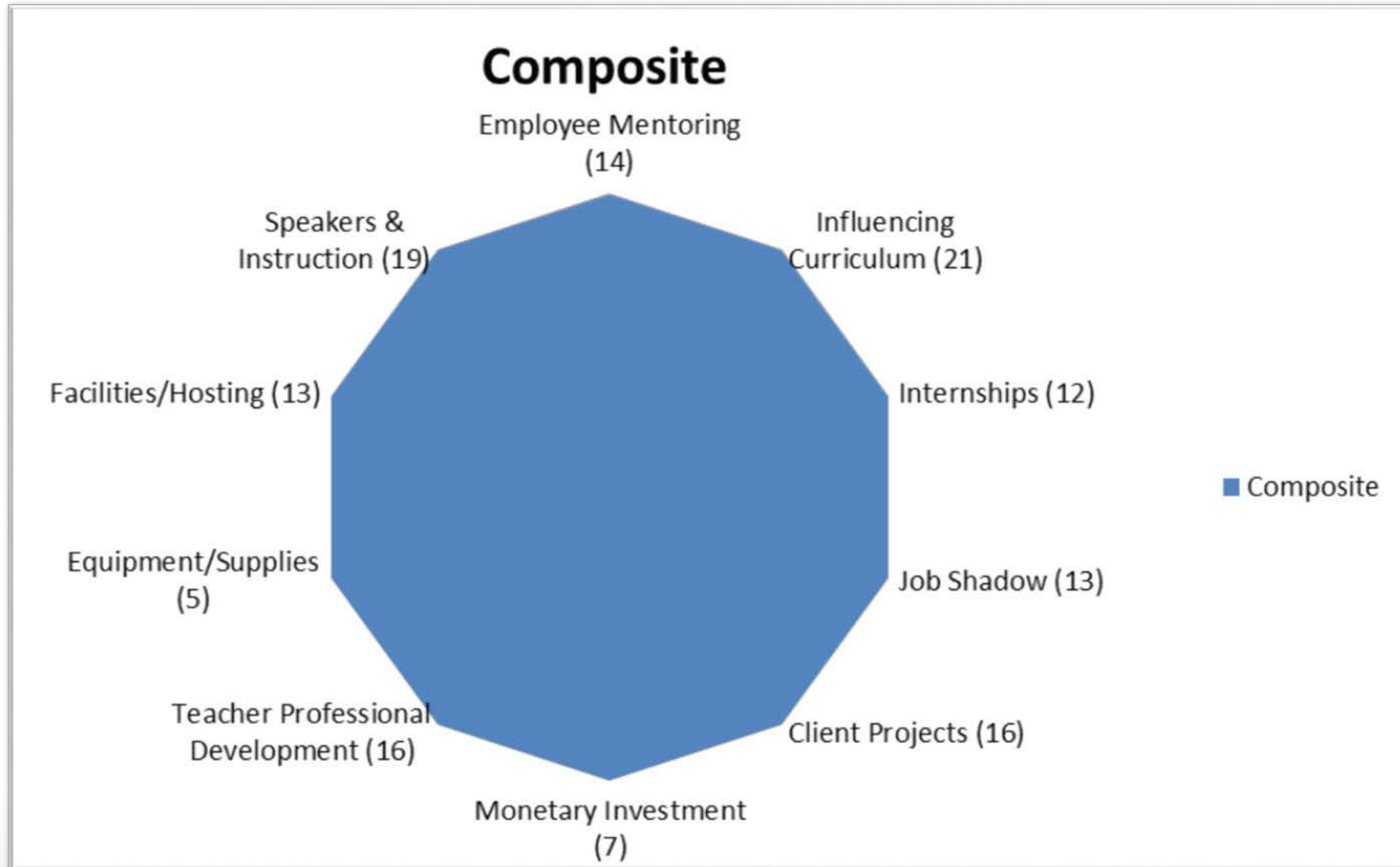
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Lessons Learned

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- Educators need to be given leadership within the program and release time to help it grow
 - Teachers need to “thoughtfully partner with interested community partners”

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- Educators and community partners must be willing to get out of their comfort zone
- Multi-district partnerships struggle w/ student meeting time

Lessons Learned

- How have current models bridged the gap?
 - Educator teams review job listings at local companies
 - Business partners immerse themselves into school environment for at least one day
 - During the initial year, the complete partnership team needs to meet multiple times to get everyone on the same page
 - Common definition of advanced manufacturing, for example
 - Make sure everyone's voice is heard by the whole group
 - Hire an intermediary/business liaison to reduce teacher burden
 - Infuse projects across multiple courses so students have more co-working time

**What challenges have you encountered
while building school-business
partnerships?**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline for using the funds, if awarded?

Awarded funds must be spent by the end of the fiscal year.

Are community partners eligible to apply for this grant in association with K-12 district(s)?

Community partners are encouraged to apply in partnership with a K-12 district(s). We believe that the strongest applications will bring together multiple partners to leverage the strengths and resources they bring to the partnership.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Can the local cost sharing portion be spent after June 30?

Applicants are expected to clearly outline the fiscal and in-kind support they receive but the cost-share must occur during the award period.

Does my proposal have to outline a new model or can we expand upon an existing partnership?

The goal of the STEM BEST RFP is to build and strength the partnerships between education and business. We welcome applications from new and existing partnerships that align to the attributes of STEM BEST.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Are these one time funds?

The funding for the fiscal year depends upon legislative appropriations and as such, these funds must be expended within the fiscal year of the award.

Would career academy consortiums be a good path to take to build regional STEM BEST programs that leverage the intermediary and navigator support systems now being implemented statewide?

Applicants for this RFP are encouraged to strengthen their proposals by collaborating with existent community assets and resources including intermediaries, career academies, community colleges, universities, AEA's, extension, economic developers, workforce officials and of course, partner businesses.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is there funding for expenses incurred before the award date and can we write these expenses into our proposal?

Expenses incurred before awards are announced cannot be included in this proposal.

Can funds be spent on remodeling and equipment not just curriculum development and PD?

Yes, funds can be spent on remodeling and equipment as long as it aligns to the program proposal and strengthens outcomes for students.

Questions?

Email info@iowastem.gov

or

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